

S-E-C-R-E-T

Security Information

IAC-M-62

28 February 1952

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held in Director's  
Conference Room, Administration Building  
Central Intelligence Agency, on 28 February 1952

Director of Central Intelligence Agency  
General Walter Bedell Smith  
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr., Special Assistant, Intelligence,  
Department of State  
Major General A. R. Bolling, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,  
Department of the Army  
Rear Admiral R. F. Stout, acting for Director of Naval  
Intelligence, Department of the Navy  
Major General John A. Samford, Director of Intelligence,  
Headquarters, United States Air Force  
Dr. Walter F. Colby, Director of Intelligence, Atomic  
Energy Commission  
Brigadier General Richard C. Partridge, Deputy Director for  
Intelligence, The Joint Staff  
Mr. Meffert W. Kuhrtz, acting for Assistant to the Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Loftus E. Becker, Central Intelligence Agency  
Dr. Sherman Kent, Central Intelligence Agency  
Mr. Paul A. Borel, Central Intelligence Agency  
Mr. Ludwell L. Montague, Central Intelligence Agency  
[redacted] Central Intelligence Agency  
[redacted] Central Intelligence Agency  
Mr. Chester L. Cooper, Central Intelligence Agency  
Mr. Fisher Howe, Department of State  
Mr. Joseph A. Yeager, Department of State  
Brigadier General John Weckerling, Department of the Army  
Colonel O. B. Sykes, Department of the Army  
Lieut. Colonel J. C. Tarkenton, Jr., Department of the Army  
Captain Ray Malpass, USN, Department of the Navy  
Colonel Edward H. Porter, Department of the Air Force  
Colonel J. C. Marchant, Department of the Air Force  
Colonel Charles F. Gillis, Department of the Air Force  
Colonel S. M. Lansing, The Joint Staff

James Q. Reber  
Secretary

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Approval of Minutes

1. Action: The minutes of the last meeting, 21 February 1952 (IAC-M-61) were approved subject to the change of date in paragraph 7 from "March 6" to "March 13."

Probable Developments in  
Indochina (NIE-35/1)

2. Action: The working group was requested to consider proposed changes submitted by the agencies and to insert where appropriate a new conclusion warning of the possibility (beyond the period of this estimate) of the withdrawal of the French from Tonkin in the face of portending Viet Minh pressure and in the face of the deterioration of the French economic position with its probable serious repercussions on the morale of the French Forces in Indochina. Final approval will be by telephone concurrence if possible.

Consequences of Certain  
Proposed US Courses of  
Action with Respect to  
Indochina, Burma, or  
Thailand (SE-22)

3. Action: Approved as amended.

Coordination of Intelligence  
in Panama

4. Action: It was agreed that the State Department and the military agencies would work out some mutually satisfactory formula with respect to the intelligence coordination arrangements of the ambassador and the commanding general in the area, with the understanding that any arrangements mutually agreeable to the above parties would be satisfactory to the DCI.

5. Discussion: The discussion of the problem of coordination of intelligence in Panama centered about the intelligence responsibility of the ambassador as Chief of Mission for coordination in Panama and that of the commanding general which transcends the Canal Zone extending throughout the Caribbean area.



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7. General Bolling concurred with General Samford's emphasis on the need for taking into account the area responsibility of the commanding general and the complications which would arise by having the Ambassador to Panama or his designee chair whatever group was established (as Mr. Armstrong had proposed in respect of a Joint Intelligence Committee for the area) since other ambassadors in the area are also interested in these matters. General Samford reemphasized that working out this problem satisfactorily could be useful as a precedent in other areas.

8. General Smith proposed that while the informal gathering heretofore convened by General Morris seemed desirable and practical, the absence of a senior political officer from the Embassy was a serious shortcoming. He thought it preferable that the Ambassador should not chair such a meeting but should be free to comment on the estimates of such a gathering whether produced on its own initiative or in response to questions, such as on occasion the IAC had asked of the group in Japan. He proposed that the forwarding of such reports with the individual comments of senior representatives in the area to their respective Washington Headquarters would be extremely useful since they would all eventually be considered in the IAC. While believing that a senior embassy official might appropriately be the Chairman or at least one of the most important members, he recognized the point raised by General Samford in respect to the extensive geographic area involved. He noted that the Embassy in Panama normally receives a tremendous quantity of intelligence pertaining to the whole area and that the main problems confronting the area would be of a political nature.

Release of NIE-50  
to SHAPE

9. Action: Insofar as it is necessary to provide SHAPE with NIE-50, G-2 will proceed as executive agent to make it available for U. S. Eyes Only. Release of this document to foreign officials either in respect of SHAPE or NATO Standing Group, Intelligence Committee, will await NSC action on NSCID 1 which relates to policy for dissemination to foreign governments.

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Atomic Energy Estimate

10. Action: Even though there appears to be agreement in the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee on the semi-annual Atomic Energy estimate, it was agreed that the estimate will be submitted to the panel of consultants (Ref. IAC-M-55, para. 12) for appraisal of the data, method, and conclusions and for recommendation to the IAC.

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IAC MEETING, Thursday, 28 February 1952

1. NIE-62: Getting more urgent. Deadline to IAC was 13 March. Get early draft especially to CIA, State, and G-2. Clear statement of facts and no delay for reconciliation of views. Get FBI contributions.
2. NIE-35/1; Estimate sent back to representatives. Get in estimate: what is likely to happen in Indochina?

Factors working may produce French withdrawal.

Get telephone concurrences. Meet at 2:30 Thursday. Print for circulation Monday.

3. SE-22: State and Navy both want inclusion of "warning" paragraph. Comment in paper desirable but no estimate on this point possible on short notice. Carry as additional sentence to assumption.

Approved.